

CLAIMS

1. A reference volume tube which is equipped with a measurement tube portion having a reference volume determined in a predetermined section and which calibrates a flow meter to be tested based on a volume of a fluid discharged when a moving element moves within the measurement tube portion through the predetermined section,

the reference volume tube being characterized by comprising a waiting means for causing the moving element to wait at a predetermined position on an upstream side of a start point of the predetermined section of the measurement tube portion.

2. A reference volume tube according to Claim 1, characterized in that the waiting means is a mechanical stopper for stopping the moving element.

3. A reference volume tube according to Claim 2, characterized in that the mechanical stopper is composed of a pin to be engaged with the moving element and a hydraulic cylinder for biasing the pin.

4. A reference volume tube according to Claim 1, characterized in that:

the reference volume tube is of a bidirectional prover type having a construction in which the fluid is movable bidirectionally within the measurement tube portion;

both end portions of the measurement tube portion are respectively equipped with the waiting means; and the reference volume tube comprises a multi-way valve, which is connected between the both end portions and the flow meter to be tested, for introducing the fluid into one of the both end portions through flow passage switching.

5. A reference volume tube according to Claim 4, characterized in that the measurement tube portion is a loop tube.